

# Addendum

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## MEMBER BENEFIT SPOTLIGHT

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### CosmoLex Offers Additional Discount Through End of November

**By Laura Calloway, director, ASB Service Programs, [laura.calloway@alabar.org](mailto:laura.calloway@alabar.org)**

As lawyers in smaller firms know, "administrative" mistakes—such as missed deadlines, inaccurate bills and improper or missed trust account reconciliations—can be costly, resulting in lost clients, malpractice claims and professional discipline. Wise lawyers adopt systems to avoid these problems and take the focus off administrivia, allowing them to spend their time doing what they do best—practicing law.

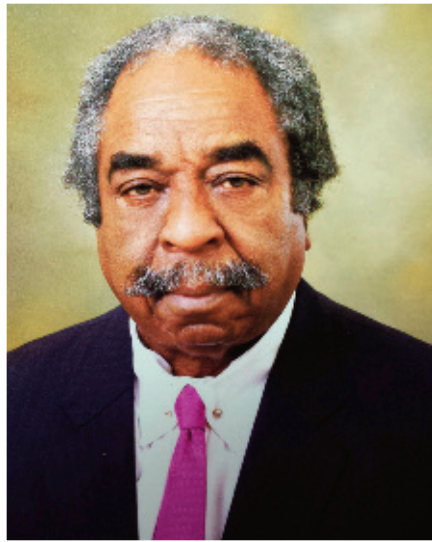
CosmoLex, one of the Alabama State Bar's newest member benefits, has just made it much easier to stay on top of practice management functions with the release of a state-of-the-art, comprehensive, cloud-based practice management tool, CosmoLex Cloud. And, while you may have seen prior versions of CosmoLex, this new release takes the

service to an entirely different level.

CosmoLex is unique in the way that everything is integrated intuitively, built from the ground up for the sole purpose of enabling law firm practice management, so everything, like tasks or expenses, is attached to a client matter. And meetings in the calendar can be set as "billable"—to flow into the invoicing stream upon completion. The trust accounts section prevents common trust bookkeeping mistakes such as overdrafts, and automates bank reconciliations and three-way reconciliation, facilitating working with auditors.

The Alabama State Bar has arranged for you to receive a 10 percent lifetime discount on CosmoLex Cloud, and an additional 5 percent lifetime discount is available for those who sign up before November 30, reducing the user fee to \$43 per month (billed annually and proof of ASB membership required). Call (866) 878-6798 or go to [www.cosmolex.com](http://www.cosmolex.com) for details on how to start your 30-day free trial.

## The “Distinguishable Judge Roast”



*Price*

### MCBA Presents Ninth Annual Charity Event

The “Distinguishable Judge Roast” honoring Judge Charles Price for his 31 years of service as a circuit judge in Montgomery County will be November 14 at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at 201 Tallapoosa Street. Sponsored by the Montgomery County Bar Association, the event begins at 5:15 p.m. with a reception and silent auction. The dinner and roast start at 7:00.

Admission is \$75 per person and dress is cocktail attire. Tickets, sponsorships and other opportunities may be purchased at [www.mcbar.org](http://www.mcbar.org), by calling the MCBA at (334) 265-4793 or by mailing a check to:

Montgomery County Bar Association  
P.O. Box 72  
Montgomery AL 36101

All proceeds benefit Mary Ellen’s Hearth at Nellie Burge Community Center, Medical Outreach Ministries and the Montgomery Volunteer Lawyers Program.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Renaissance for out-of-town guests (<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/mgmb-renaissance-montgomery-hotel-and-spa-at-the-convention-center/>).

Purchase your tickets today! ■

## A L A P : Do Something Good for Your Profession and Participate in Stress Study



**By Robert Thornhill, MS, LPC, director, Alabama Lawyer Assistance Program,  
[robert.thornhill@alabar.org](mailto:robert.thornhill@alabar.org)**

The Alabama Lawyer Assistance Program announces its support of a stress study being conducted by University of Alabama School of Law Professor Pamela Pierson.

Mental health issues, such as depression, anxiety, substance abuse and bipolar disorder, and the tragic reality of suicide among attorneys have become topics of urgency among many around the country. It is widely known that attorneys suffer from depression and substance use disorders at roughly twice the rate of the general population, and that the suicide rate is also twice that of the general population.

Participation in this survey will not take much of your time, and it may play an important role in identifying those traits that precipitate unhealthy stress and other mental health issues, as well as those traits of “stress hardiness” that seem to be possessed by those who handle stress well.



*Thornhill*



*Pierson*

The Alabama Lawyer Assistance Program applauds the efforts of Professor Pierson and her colleagues, and encourages attorneys to take a few minutes to complete the survey.

Survey results are completely confidential. This version requires responses so you will have to take it to review it. To begin the survey, go to [https://universityofalabama.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_2tyV2k6G54KqReJ](https://universityofalabama.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_2tyV2k6G54KqReJ). ■



## IMPORTANT NOTICES

### Alabama Lawyers' Hall of Fame

May is traditionally the month when new members are inducted into the Alabama Lawyers' Hall of Fame located at the state judicial building. The idea for a hall of fame first appeared in 2000 when Montgomery attorney Terry Brown wrote state bar President Sam Rumore with a proposal that the former supreme court building, adjacent to the state bar building and vacant at that time, should be turned into a museum memorializing the many great lawyers in the history of the state of Alabama.

The implementation of the idea of an Alabama Lawyers' Hall of Fame originated during the term of state bar President Fred Gray. He appointed a task force to study the concept, set up guidelines and provide a recommendation to the board of bar commissioners. The committee report was approved in 2003 and the first induction took place for the year 2004. Since then, 45 lawyers have become members of the hall of fame. The five newest members were inducted May 2, 2014.

A 12-member selection committee consisting of the immediate past president of the Alabama State Bar, a member appointed by the chief justice, one member appointed by each of the three presiding federal district court judges of Alabama, four members appointed by the board of bar commissioners, the director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, the chair of the Alabama Bench and Bar Historical Society and the executive secretary of the Alabama State Bar meets annually to consider the nominees and make selections for induction.

Inductees to the Alabama Lawyers' Hall of Fame must have had a distinguished career in the law. This could be demonstrated through many different forms of achievement—leadership, service, mentorship, political courage or professional success. Each inductee must have been deceased at least two years at the time of their selection. Also, for each year, at least one of the inductees must have been deceased a minimum of 100 years to give due recognition to historic figures as well as the more recent lawyers of the state.

The selection committee actively solicits suggestions from members of the bar and the general public for the nomination of inductees. We need nominations of historic figures as well as present-day lawyers for consideration. Great lawyers cannot be chosen if they have not been nominated. Nominations can be made throughout the year by downloading the nomination form from the bar's website and submitting the requested information. Plaques commemorating the inductees are located in the lower rotunda of the judicial building and profiles of all inductees are found on the bar's website at <https://www.alabar.org/membership/alabama-lawyers-hall-of-fame/>.

Download an application form at <https://www.alabar.org/assets/uploads/2014/08/Hall-of-Fame-Nomination-Form-2015.pdf> and mail the completed form to:

Sam Rumore  
Alabama Lawyers' Hall of Fame  
P.O. Box 671  
Montgomery AL 36101

**The deadline for submission is March 1, 2015.**

### Judicial Award of Merit

The Alabama State Bar Board of Bar Commissioners will receive nominations for the state bar's Judicial Award of Merit through **March 13, 2015**. Nominations should be mailed to:

Keith B. Norman, secretary  
Board of Bar Commissioners  
P.O. Box 671  
Montgomery AL 36101-0671

The Judicial Award of Merit was established in 1987. The award is not necessarily an annual award. It must be presented to a judge who is not retired, whether state or federal court, trial or appellate, who is determined to have contributed significantly to the administration of justice in Alabama. The recipient is presented with a crystal gavel bearing the state bar seal and the year of presentation.

Nominations are considered by a three-member committee appointed by the president of the state bar, which then makes a recommendation to the board of bar commissioners with respect to a nominee or whether the award should be presented in any given year.

Nominations should include a detailed biographical profile of the nominee and

a narrative outlining the significant contribution(s) the nominee has made to the administration of justice. Nominations may be supported with letters of endorsement.

### Local Bar Award of Achievement

The Alabama State Bar Local Bar Award of Achievement recognizes local bar associations for their outstanding contributions to their communities. Awards will be presented during the Alabama State Bar's 2015 Annual Meeting at the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort & Spa in Point Clear.

Local bar associations compete for these awards based on their size—large, medium or small.

The following criteria are used to judge the contestants for each category:

- The degree of participation by the individual bar in advancing programs to benefit the community;
- The quality and extent of the impact of the bar's participation on the citizens in that community; and
- The degree of enhancements to the bar's image in the community.

To be considered for this award, local bar associations must **complete and submit an award application by June 1, 2015**. Applications may be downloaded from [www.alabar.org](http://www.alabar.org) or obtained by contacting Christina Butler at (334) 269-1515 or [christina.butler@alabar.org](mailto:christina.butler@alabar.org). ■

## Addendum

Short articles of general interest are always welcomed from ASB members. All materials submitted for publication in the *Addendum* are subject to editing for style, space and content. Send submissions as Word documents to [margaret.murphy@alabar.org](mailto:margaret.murphy@alabar.org). The deadline for the December issue is November 10.



## MCLE DEFICIENT?

# Are You Chronically Deficient? Then You Really Should Read This!

By Angela Parks, director, ASB Regulatory Programs, [angela.parks@alabar.org](mailto:angela.parks@alabar.org)

Most Alabama lawyers are extremely conscientious about complying with the annual MCLE requirement—a responsibility imposed on all of us by the Supreme Court of Alabama. The requirement is meant to ensure that we all continue to hone our skills and stay updated on changes in the law. Of course, plans can go awry and sometimes problems arise: a sudden illness, a death in the family or a job loss can throw you off track. The Alabama State Bar has ways to help you through those events. One tool is the **MCLE Deficiency Plan**.

Deficiency plans were designed for attorneys who, because of an unusual and infrequent circumstance, were unable to fulfill their annual 12-hour MCLE requirement on time. Most of the lawyers across this state will never request a deficiency plan during their career, but that is not true for everyone. Slowly but surely, the number of deficiency plans requested each year has been climbing. And the reasons given for these numbers of deficiency plans are increasingly not unusual, unforeseeable or infrequent—often the reason is simply a lack of planning.

The MCLE Commission has become concerned about the number of attorneys who repeatedly request deficiency plans. For some attorneys, a deficiency plan has become a chronic need. In plain terms, the option for a deficiency plan is being abused. This issue was partially addressed in

2011 with the addition of MCLE Rule 8.E, which provides that requests for the approval of successive deficiency plans will not be considered without a showing of good cause.

At the request of the MCLE Commission, on September 19, the Board of Bar Commissioners approved the adoption of MCLE Regulation 8.6, which provides that, *“In order to make a showing of good cause pursuant to MCLE Rule 8.E, after the approval of two successive deficiency plans, an attorney shall appear before a panel consisting of the MCLE Director, a representative of the MCLE Commission, and a representative of the Office of General Counsel to explain why a further deficiency plan should be granted. The attorney shall be notified in writing of the decision of the panel.”* The new regulation becomes effective immediately.

The MCLE Commission has directed that a letter be sent to the attorneys who will be affected this year by the new regulation, to advise them of the new procedure while they still have the balance of the year to take action to avoid another MCLE deficiency. Monitoring deficiency plans in this manner each year will now become a routine part of our annual responsibilities.

If you have had two or more deficiency plans in the past three years, we strongly urge you to make plans now to ensure that you are MCLE-compliant by midnight, December 31, 2014. ■

# Methvin Named 2014 Recipient of Albritton Award

The Alabama State Bar recently announced that Montgomery attorney Tom Methvin is the recipient of the 2014 Harold Albritton Pro Bono Leadership Award.

Methvin is a principal attorney with Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles PC, where he is also the managing attorney. He began his career with the firm in 1988, shortly after graduating from the Cumberland School of Law. Methvin also graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in corporate finance.

Methvin is a past president of the Alabama State Bar (2009-2010) and the Montgomery County Bar Association (1996). He has contributed greatly to the pro bono efforts across the state to bring awareness to the need for volunteerism in the legal community.

"Tom has an intense commitment to the fundamental principles of equal protection and equal justice," said Alabama State Bar President Rich Raleigh. "He has worked zealously, both during his presidency and after, to help Alabamians through outstanding pro bono service, encouraging every lawyer and law firm to become involved and emphasizing how every Alabama lawyer has a responsibility to render public interest legal service."

Created in 2011, the award is named for Judge W. Harold Albritton, who established the Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program in 1991. It was presented to Judge Albritton at the 2011 fall admission ceremony, honoring his vision and leadership. The Albritton Award is now presented annually to an attorney who has shown leadership and commitment to improving pro bono legal services to Alabama's low-income citizens.

"The overriding message of Tom's service as president of the Alabama State Bar was that lawyers had a duty to render pro bono service, and even after his presidency he actively encouraged participation in local and state volunteer lawyer programs," said Mike Martin, executive director of the Montgomery County Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program.

Other past recipients include Samuel N. Crosby and Alyce M. Spruell. ■



*Methvin*

## Tips on Fonts And Colors in Your Browser

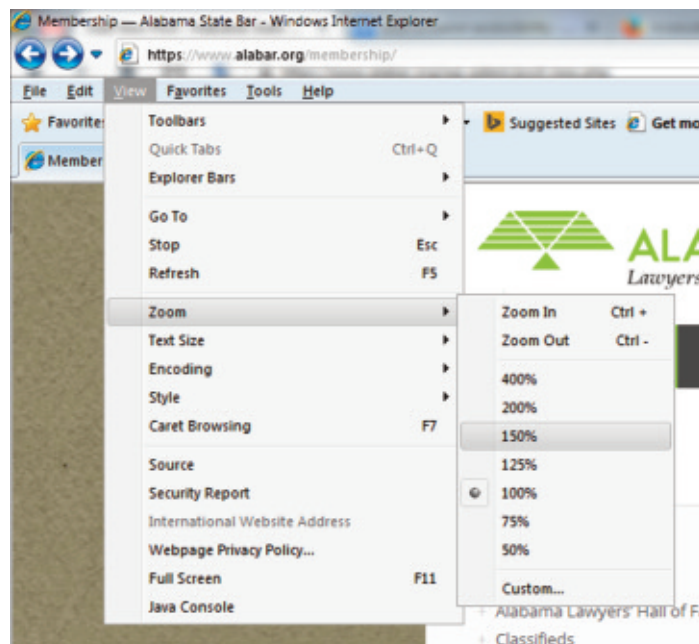
Throughout the design process for your new *alabar.org*, we have aimed to present information in an easy-to-read format. However, we understand that the smaller font sizes and varying colors in some places, such as the results of our Member Search, may be difficult to read for some members and visitors. Most modern web browsers include the ability to zoom in on pages, increase minimum font size and modify the color settings of webpages. Below is a guide to making use of these features.

### All Browsers

In all browsers, it is possible to zoom in on a page by pressing the **Ctrl** (or **⌘** on a Mac) and **+** keys at the same time. You can press these keys repeatedly to zoom in further. To reset zoom, press **Ctrl** and **0** (zero).

### Internet Explorer

In Internet Explorer 8 and above, you can set your preferred zoom level from the View menu. To reach these settings, press the **Alt** key on your keyboard to bring up the menu bar at the top of the window and then click **View**.



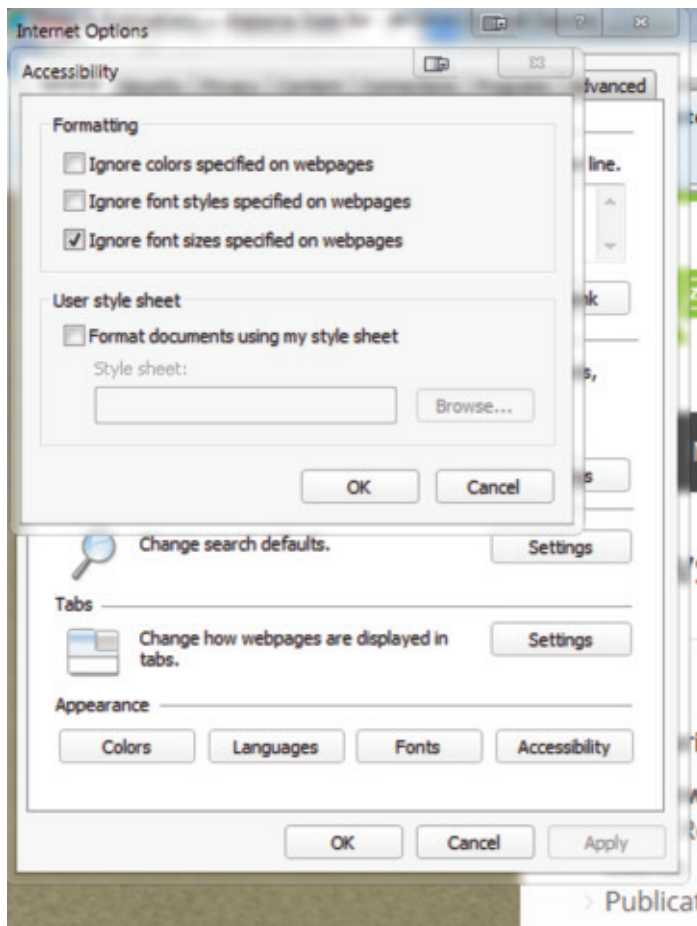
If you wish to only zoom in on fonts, or to remove color from webpages, press the **Alt** key on your keyboard, click **Tools** and then **Internet Options**. In the bottom right of the Internet Options dialog, click **Accessibility**.

*(Continued on page 6)*



## TIPS ON FONTS AND COLORS IN YOUR BROWSER

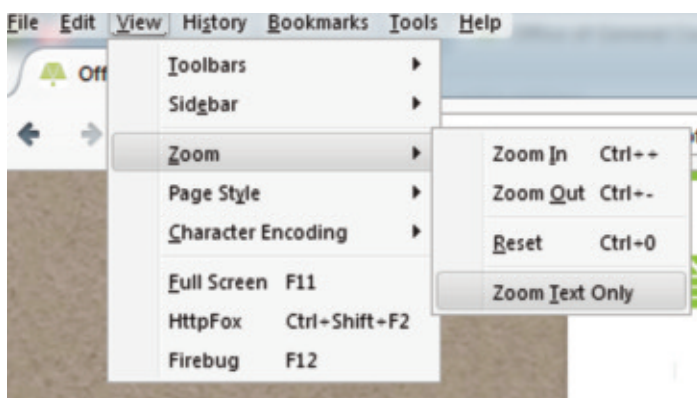
(Continued from page 5)



Here, you can choose “**Ignore font sizes specified on web pages**” to be able to choose your preferred font size from the **View > Text Size** menu, or “**Ignore colors specified on web pages**” to default to black type, white background, blue unvisited links and purple visited links. You can change these default colors by clicking **Colors** at the bottom of **Internet Options** and unchecking “**Use Windows colors.**”

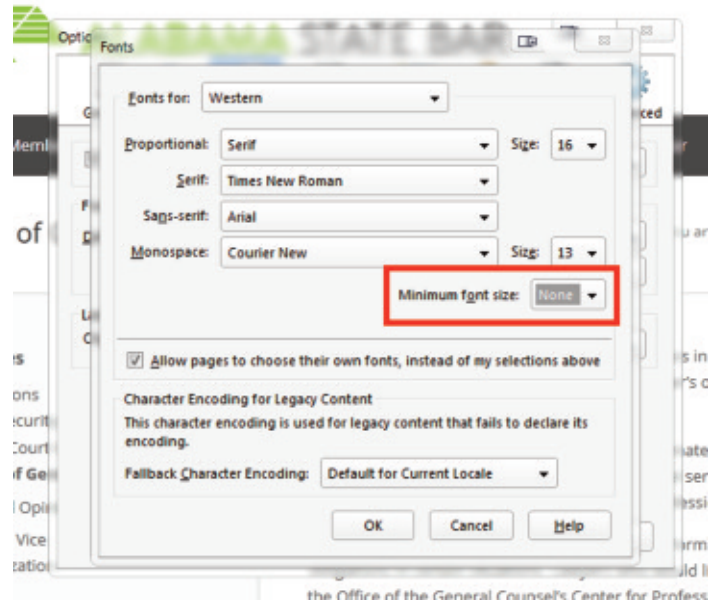
### Firefox

*Note: Mac users do not need to press Alt when following the instructions below. The menu bar is always visible at the top of your screen.*

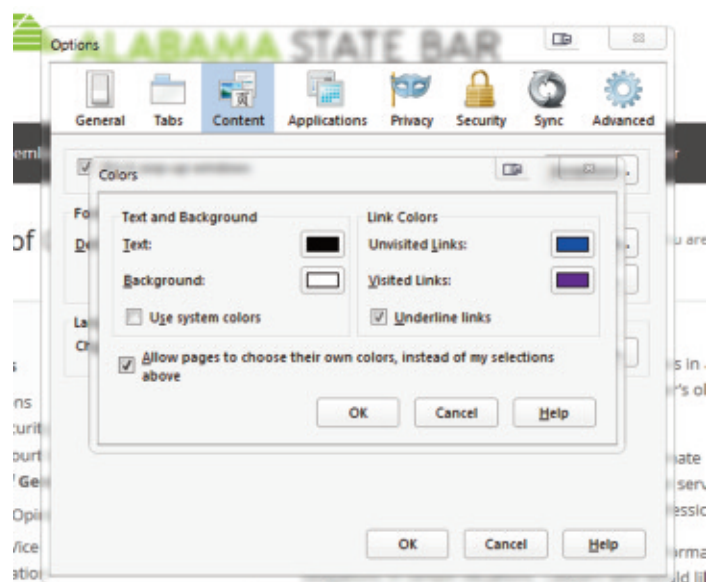


To zoom in on web pages in Firefox, follow the tips above under All Browsers. Firefox also allows you to easily zoom only the text on pages by pressing the **Alt** key on your keyboard, then clicking the **View** menu, mousing over **Zoom** and clicking “**Zoom Text Only.**” You can then press **Ctrl** (or **⌘**) and **+** or **-** to zoom in and out.

You can also set a minimum font size. Press the **Alt** key on your keyboard, click **Tools** in the menu bar and then **Options** in the Tools menu. Click the **Content** tab and then the **Advanced** button. Choose your minimum font size from the dropdown.



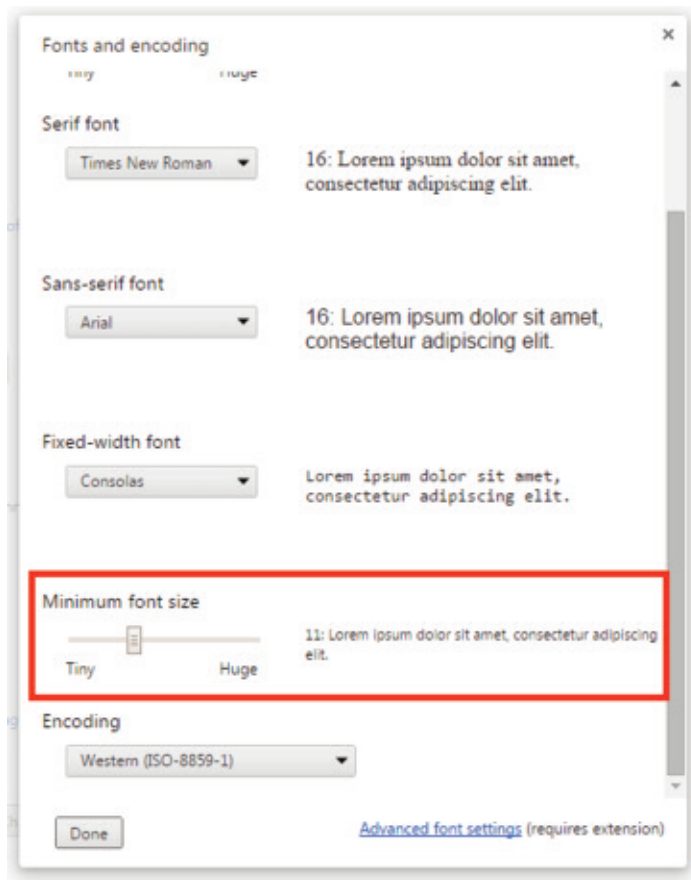
Here in **Content**, you can also choose your own **Colors**. Click the **Colors** button and then uncheck **Allow pages to choose their own colors, instead of my selections above** to override what pages set.



## Chrome

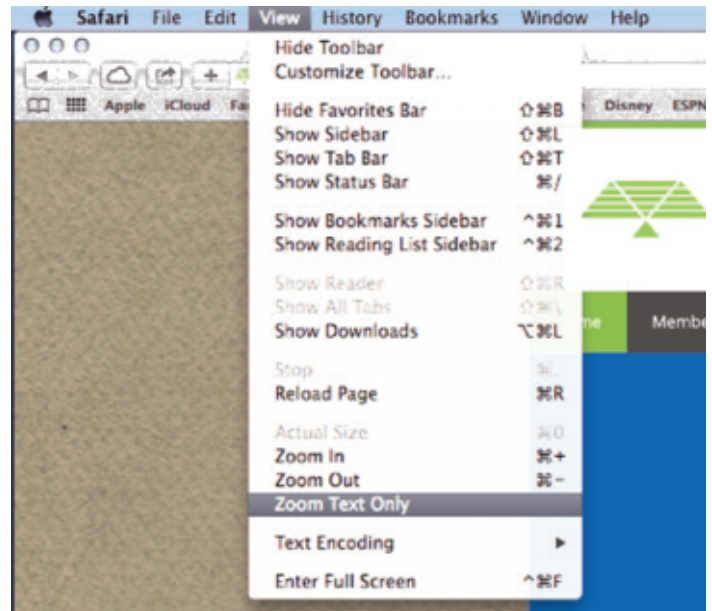
To zoom in on pages, follow the instructions above under All Browsers. Chrome does not offer built-in methods to change colors, but you (or your IT department) can install an extension like Change Colors (<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/change-colors/jbmkekhejedonbhoikhhkmlapalkgn>) to do so.

To set a minimum font size, click the **Menu** button and then **Settings**. At the bottom of the window, click **Show advanced settings...** and scroll down to **Web content**. Click the **Customize fonts...** button. Near the bottom of the dialog that comes up is the **Minimum font size** slider. Click any point on it, or click and drag the sliding box, to increase or decrease the minimum font size.

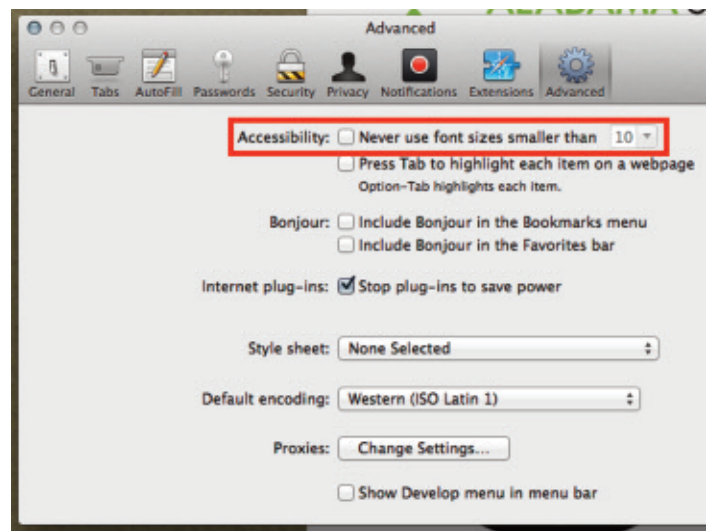


## Safari (Mac)

To zoom an entire page, follow the instructions above under All Browsers. To zoom in on text only, increasing the font size, click the **View** menu in your menu bar and then check **Zoom Text Only**.



You can then use  $\mathbb{A}$  and + or - to increase and decrease font size. You can also set a minimum font size for web pages—click **Safari** in your menu bar, then **Preferences** and then the **Advanced** tab at the end. Check the box labeled “**Never use font sizes smaller than**” and choose your preferred font size in the dropdown to the right.



Unfortunately, Safari does not offer a quick and easy way to override colors on a website. We recommend installing (or having your IT department install) Firefox or Chrome.

# We welcome your feedback!

If you have any other questions, or want to share your experience with your new *alabar.org*, please go to <https://www.alabar.org/contact/> and send us a message.



# Survey of Threats and Violence Aimed at Alabama's Legal Profession



For more than 25 years, the media and legal commentators have identified an increase of work-related violence toward the legal profession. While there is no national method for reporting these threats and acts of violence at a state level, surveys conducted to date in 11 states show that they do regularly occur.

A survey has been created to ascertain the nature and frequency of the threats and violence. This survey will remain open until November 30, 2014 and the results will be submitted as a proposed article for *The Alabama Lawyer*. Please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/C2DQ2X6> and complete the survey, whether or not you have experienced work-related threats or violence in the legal profession. ■

  
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To my clients,

I offer faithfulness, competence, diligence and good judgment. I will strive to represent you as I would want to be represented and to be worthy of your trust.

To the opposing parties and their counsel, I offer fairness, integrity and civility. I will seek reconciliation and, if we fail, I will strive to make our dispute a dignified one.

To the courts, and other tribunals, and to those who assist them, I offer respect, candor and courtesy. I will strive to do honor to the search for justice.

To my colleagues in the practice of law, I offer concern for your welfare. I will strive to make our association a professional friendship.

To the profession, I offer assistance. I will strive to keep our business a profession and our profession a calling in the spirit of public service.

To the public and our systems of justice, I offer service. I will strive to improve the law and our legal system, to make the law and our legal system available to all and to seek the common good through the representation of my clients.

(Approved by the Alabama Board of Bar Commissioners 4/10/92)

# Making the Case for Casemaker

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